

RURAL DISTRICT OF BROADWOODWIDGER.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year Ended 31st December 1959.





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BROADWOODWIDGER RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1959.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit this my twenty-second annual report for the year ended 31st December 1959, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry.

The crude birth rate is 0.6 higher than that of 1958, but still remains much lower than the rate given for the country as a whole. The death rate for the year is below the national average.

The health of the district has been good throughout the year.

The Vital Statistics for the district are set out below:

General Statistics.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Area (in acres) | 29,294. |
| Population - 1931 Census | 2,177 |
| Population - 1951 Census | 2,028 |
| Estimated home population - mid 1959 ... | 2,020 |
| Parishes | 6 |
| Number of inhabited houses | 584 |
| Rateable value | £7,951 |
| Product of the Penny Rate | £31.5.6. |
| Loan Debt | £65,407.12.5d. |

Vital Statistics.

| | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| <u>Live Births.</u> | 15 | 9 | 24 |
| Legitimate | 14 | 7 | |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 2 | |
| <u>Deaths.</u> | 11 | 10 | 21. |

Live Births.

| | | |
|---|-------|------|
| Number | 24 | |
| Rate per 1,000 population | 11.4 | 16.5 |
| Corrected birth rate..... | 11.9 | |
| Illegitimate live births % of total births | 12.5% | |

Stillbirths

| | | |
|--|------|------|
| Number | nil. | |
| Rate per 1,000 total live & still births ... | - | 20.7 |
| Total live and still births | 24 | |
| Infant deaths (under 1 year) | 1 | |

Infant Mortality Rates

| | | |
|---|------|--|
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births .. | 41.6 | |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .. | 47.6 | |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. | - | |
| Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births). | 41.6 | |
| Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) . | 41.6 | |
| Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | 41.6 | |

Maternal Mortality

| | | |
|--|------|------|
| Number of deaths | nil | |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.. | - | |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population | 10.3 | 11.6 |
| Corrected death rate | 12.1 | |

Age at Death Table.

| <u>Age of death.</u> | <u>Male.</u> | <u>Female.</u> | |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Infants under 1 year. | - | 1 | |
| 1 - 5 years | - | - | |
| 5 - 15 " | - | - | |
| 15 - 25 " | - | - | |
| 25 - 35 " | - | - | |
| 35 - 45 " | - | - | |
| 45 - 55 " | 1 | - | |
| 55 - 65 " | 2 | 1 | |
| 65 - 75 " | 5 | 1 | |
| 75 years and over. | 3 | 7 | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | |
| Total | 11 | 10 | = <u>21 deaths.</u> |

5.

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received.

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the district

Tuberculosis

No deaths were recorded from this cause. Two new cases (1 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary) were reported during the year.

At the end of the year 10 cases remained on the Register as follows:

| <u>Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary</u> | |
|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
| 4 | 2 | - | 4 |

My thanks are due to Mr. Judd for preparing the section of the report which he actually administers.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

E. D. Allen-Price.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

This being my twenty-fifth Annual Report it may be of interest to reflect a little on the past and try and look forward to the future.

In 1935 there were no Council Offices and as far as your Public Health Department is concerned there are no records going back prior to that date.

In 1935 there were no Council houses, no piped water supply and no Building Byelaws. The population in 1935 was 2,034 a figure which has hardly fluctuated over the years. The inhabited houses numbered 555 another figure which has remained fairly constant.

The first houses built by the Council were a pair at East Panson erected in 1938, the Council now own 38 houses.

As constituent members of the North Devon Water Board the Council has piped main water supplies in every Parish except Northcott Hamlet.

Over the period some 24 houses have been either demolished or closed for human habitation; 36 have been repaired as the result of Statutory action and 269 have been repaired as the result of informal action.

All the Schools have been converted from Pail Closets to flushed Water Closets and have been provided with good facilities for hand washing.

General hygiene has improved considerably and the health of the inhabitants is good with a low death rate and the age at death being considerably higher than the average for the country as a whole.

The Rateable Value in 1935 was £4,963.0.0. with the product of a penny rate being £17.5.6. The total salaries for the Staff in March 1935 were at the rate of £157.0.0. a year. The Rate in the pound was 7/2d being made up as 6/10d for the County Rate, 3d for the District Council and 1d for the Assessment Committee. The present rate is 16/8d in the pound.

The outlook for the future, or even for the survival of the Rural District, is not a happy one. My personal opinion is that, despite a small population and low Rateable Value, the Council manages its affairs efficiently - the Rate in the pound is one of the lowest in the Country but it is unlikely that the Rural District will survive as a single unit for more than a few years.

The present trend towards fewer Councils with larger population and higher Rateable Value is bound to lead to greater efficiency in administration providing the areas of the Councils are reasonably compact; your district which is so sparsely populated with only seven persons to each hundred acres, situated at one end of the County with only three small towns in Devon within a dozen miles is bound, always, to be something of an administration problem.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

Jays Cross, Werrington.

Two traditional houses were completed and occupied during the year.

Ladycross, Werrington.

Plans were prepared and tenders received for a further pair of houses on this site.

The following is the list of Council houses in the various parishes:-

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|-----|
| Broadwoodwidge | | 10 |
| North Petherwin | | 10 |
| Northcott Hamlet | ... | nil |
| St. Giles-in-the- | | |
| Heath | | 6 |
| Virginstowe | | 2 |
| Werrington | | 10 |

Twenty-six of the above houses are supplied with water from the North Devon Water Board mains.

Private Enterprise houses completed during the year .. 2.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT 1959

During the year the Council continued its policy of making Discretionary grants in every case where the applicant's property could be brought up to the required standard.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Properties for which Discretionary | |
| grants offered | 7 |
| Total cost of schemes | £5,297.0.0. |
| Total value of grants offered | £2,004.0.0. |
| Schemes completed during the year | 7 |
| Grants paid during the year | £1,713.0.0. |

Discretionary grants have been paid in respect of 23 properties; the total cost of the schemes has been £11,262.0.0. and total grants paid by the Council have been £5,216.0.0. The properties reconditioned have been 15 agricultural workers cottages, 7 owner-occupied farmhouses and one private house.

In July, Standard grants became available whereby a property owner can obtain a grant towards the cost of providing a house with a bath, wash-basin, hot water supply, water closet and larder. The schemes covered by these grants are less ambitious and the general standard for the dwelling house is lower than is the case for Discretionary grants. Despite the comparative simplicity of obtaining these grants the response from the general public has been poor and during the six months since the Act came into force only two applications have been received.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:
 - a) Number of dwelling houses inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts ... 41
 - b) Inspections made for the purpose ... 76
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ... 1
3. Number of houses closed under Housing Act 1957. ... 1
4. Dwelling houses (exclusive of those under preceding sub-heading) not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... 29
5. Remedy of defects during the year:
 - a) Without the serving of Formal Notices ... 27
 - b) Formal Notices under Housing Acts ... nil
 - c) Formal notices under Public Health Act 1936. ... 2
6. Houses found to be over-crowded ... 1

RENT ACT 1957

It is now $2\frac{1}{2}$ years since the coming into force of the Rent Act 1957 during which time not a single application has been received for a certificate of disrepair.

PLANS

The following plans were approved by the Council under their Building Byelaws:-

| | |
|--|----|
| Alterations and additions to existing houses ... | 10 |
| New dwelling houses ... | 6 |
| Agricultural Buildings | 4 |
| Garages. ... | 5 |

FOOD SUPPLIES

BAKERIES

There are no bakeries in the district but a good delivery service is provided from Launceston.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

There is only one slaughter-house which is used by the Owner for his family business only. The quality of the meat killed is good but it is unfortunate, that with two districts to serve, it is not found possible to devote time to regular meat inspection.

GROCERS.

There are seven general stores from which groceries are served, two being reasonably large shops the remainder being one room divided off from the rest of the house and used as a general store. Several mobile grocers store vans travel around the district and these are always kept clean.

ICE-CREAM

There are five retailers of pre-packed ice cream. In all cases conditions are satisfactory.

MILK

There are only two registered retailers of milk in the area and each holds a Supplementary licence for the retail of Pasteurised milk. The bulk of the population obtain their milk supply by fetching it from the farms, these producer-retailers and their premises are under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, Section 3

The following samples were taken under the above Act during the year by the County Inspector:-

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-------------|--------------------|
| Milk. | ... | 20 samples. | <u>All genuine</u> |
| Epsom Salts | |) | |
| Tea | |) | |
| Luncheon Beef | |) | <u>All genuine</u> |
| Strained Creamed Fish. | |) | |
| Salad Cream | |) | |

WATER SUPPLIES

The exceptionally dry summer caused many private supplies to fail. The wells at the Council houses situated at Brazacott, Maxworthy and East Panson all failed - in the case of the latter two for the first time since the houses were built. The gradual extension of their mains by the North Devon Water Board is proving a great boon to householders and agriculturalists alike. The main extension completed during the year was from Box's Shop to Ladycross and Yeolmbridge.

Mr. Young, District Engineer to the North Devon Water Board, has submitted the following report on progress in your district during the year.

The borehole at North Petherwin has failed to provide an adequate supply throughout the year. Some surface water which had been supplementing the supply was found to be contaminated and was diverted from the area of the borehole and this further aggravated the situation. It has been necessary to cart water to North Petherwin by tanker lorry continually throughout summer and winter, an average of about three visits per week being required, water is conveyed from the Board's nearest main at Ladycross and delivered direct to the storage tank at North Petherwin Pumping Station from which it is delivered to the mains in the normal way.

Mainlaying has proceeded from the Board's service reservoir at Ivyhouse and mains now extend as far west as Ladycross and Yeolmbridge, work is continuing and the main should be connected to the North Petherwin system by mid 1960.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse is collected bi-monthly in a covered refuse lorry from all villages and hamlets and houses bordering the principal roads in the district.

FACTORIES

The only factory registered under the Factories Act, 1937, is for motor vehicle repairs. It was not found necessary to serve any notice.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council for their support and for the ready hearing which they always give me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

T. A. JUDD.

Public Health Inspector.

